SUBTERRANEA BRITANNICA - FEBRUARY 1987 - NEWSLETTER 10

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SUBSCRIPTIONS ...

Ordinary members £ 6 per annum; student/OAP members £ 3 per annum; corporate members £ 12 per annum ... are you fully paid up to date? If not, send your details / cheques to one of the addresses above!

THE BULLETIN ...

An increasing number of members are enquiring of Malcolm and Barbara Tadd, who distribute the Bulletin, as to why their copies are late arriving.

These Bulletins (now once a year, as announced in previous Newsletters), when they arrive, will be the first in the new and improved style and format ... with a higher standard of printing and artwork than hitherto. Unfortunately, during the processing and production, unexpected difficulties beyond the Committee's control have been encountered. Nevertheless, it is now estimated that delivery can be expected within from three to six weeks of 14 February. We hope to learn from experience, and produce the next issue on time later this year.

Newsletters 9 and 10 are also overdue (some members will already have had number 9 at meetings) as it has not been thought prudent to incur a separate and additional postage charge for their distribution.

THE BULLETIN ... BACK NUMBERS ...

Whilst stocks last, Barbara Tadd (address above) can supply ...

Bulletins 1 - 12 at 50p each (+ 18p each postage and packing)
Bulletins 13 - 24 at 70p each (+ 18p each postage and packing)
Bulletin Supplement 1 at £ 1.50 each (+ 22p postage and packing)
Index to Bulletins 1 - 20 (1975 - 84) at 15p each (incl. P. & P.)
Newsletters 1 - 9 at 15p each (inclusive of postage and packing)

Details of contents of Bulletins 1 - 20 will be found in the Index; details of contents of the Supplement are available on application; the Newsletters are not indexed.

Out of print items can be supplied as photocopies at cost.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ... SYLVIA BEAMON ...

2 Morton Street, ROYSTON, Herts SG8 7AZ .... PLEASE NOTE

ICEHOUSE HUNT 'HIGHLY COMMENDED' IN BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS CONTEST ...

Congratulations to Sylvia Beamon and her team working on the Ice - House project. The Ice - House Hunt was shortlisted in the leading five entries for the 1986 British Archaeological Award for the best archaeological work undertaken by a voluntary body or individual.

SUB BRIT HAS A NEW HONORARY MEMBER ...

Christopher Bayley has been elected an honorary member of Subterranea Britannica in recognition of his outstanding contributions to underground archaeology, surveying the Chaldon - Merstham quarries and others in east Surrey, and elsewhere.

The full list of our Honorary Members is now ...

Mrs Sylvia Beamon

Mrs Patricia Christie

Christopher I Bayley

Abbe P Nollent

STEAMING THROUGH SURREY ...

Peter Hay has added a further title to his series of illustrated historical books on the railways of the south-east ... and (naturally) included a tunnel or two. There is a particularly interesting view of the Edenbridge tunnel ... technically two tunnels conveying the Oxted to Uckfield line, with an overbridge between them carrying the Redhill to Tunbridge line. A welcome addition to the bookshelves, although regrettably the pages are not numbered!

Peter Hay, Steaming through Surrey, Midhurst: Middleton Press, 1986. ISBN 0 906520 39 8 £ 6.95

SB NOW OWNS A SLIDE COPIER ...

We have invested in a slide-copying attachment for a 35 mm camera. The intention is to attempt to build up a central collection of the best slides of underground sites from members willing to assist, and possibly to allow members to obtain copies of each others' slides. Practical details have yet to be worked out, but it should be possible to arrange 'orders' and possibly the actual copying at day conferences ... if you are interested, bring any slides you think SB might welcome copies of (or which you think other members might like to have copies of) to the next Conference, at the Royal School of Mines. Possibly, by then, we shall have thought out a workable system for the practicalities and costs.

THE 1987 STUDY WEEKEND ...

Plans for this year's study weekend are not yet finalised, but it is hoped we shall be based at Exeter, with visits to some if not all of the following sites: wine cellars, underground passages and catacombs in the City; Tiverton Castle dungeons; Beer chalk quarries; and Great Rocks mine, the Devonport Leat, the Morwelldown canal tunnel and Devon Great Consols mine on or around Dartmoor.

The proposed dates are earlier than usual this year ... 23rd/24th May.

AUTUMN DAY CONFERENCE ...

It is proposed to hold the Autumn day conference at Cambridge again this year ... probably on Saturday 17th October.

NAMHO CONFERENCE 1987 ...

The National Association of Mining History Organisations plans to hold its conference at the Camborne School of Mines campus at Pool near Redruth, Cornwall, on 4th and 5th July, with additional activities above or below ground in the area on the Friday and Monday for those able to make it a long weekend. Details should be sought from Maureen Holmes, NAMHO Conference Secretary, Carn Brea Mining Society, Sten - ha - Cober, 4 Penpont Road, Roseland Garden, REDRUTH, Cornwall.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT NAMUR (BELGIUM) 1987 ...

Rumour has it that our linked French and Belgian societies will be holding an international conference in the Belgian city Namur ... presumably on Bastille Day as usual, this year. For further details, contact Sylvia Beamon (address at foot of page 1)

2nd INTERNATIONAL STONE QUARRYING CONFERENCE AT BATH, 1988 ...

Subterranea Britannica has plans for a second International Stone Quarries Conference in the Bath area in the summer of 1988, building on the success of the Maastricht conference last summer. Offers of accommodation for our foreign guests, and of help with local knowledge of sites, would be most welcome. Contact our Secretary, Malcolm Tadd, with ideas, offers, or to find out more.

SB IN PURBECK ...

The east Surrey surveying team has made several visits to Purbeck, and commenced surveying in some of the small stone quarries in that area. Our ability to secure third party insurance certificates in landowners' names, through our participation in the NAMHO / BCRA insurance scheme, assisted negotiation of access to a small underground quarry in Durlston Country Park (not the Tilly Whim 'caves'), and this was completely surveyed and photographically recorded in a single day. A steeply dipping gallery, with pillars and backfill each side, ran down to a flooded section just beyond a geological fault. Wading in waist - deep cold water, followed by tight crawls and a creep through very unstable roof-fall led to a small further section of gallery which looked as stable as a house of playing cards. We are presenting the country park with copies of the survey and photographs for their visitor centre display, and are happy to endorse their plans to fix a permanent locked gate to allow bats in but not people. The tidied up entrance ... steps and slope-shaft ... will form a feature of interest to tourists within the park.

MEDWAY TOWNS VISIT IN THE AUTUMN ...

Adrian Pearce, Chairman of NAMHO, has recently moved from Derby to Chatham, and has lost no time in tackling some mining history in Kent (working with the Kent Underground Research Grouo of the Kent Archaeological Society) and Sussex. He is concentrating on the Frindsbury chalk mine near Strood / Rochester; the Higham - Strood tunnel on the former Thames & Medway Canal; and the ancient shallow iron and limestone mines in the gypsum - mining area in Sussex.

MILITARY ENGINEERING ... UNDERGROUND ...

An interesting War Office manual surfaced recently on the secondhand market ... Military Engineering (Vol. IV) Demolitions and Mining, War Offic 1923, 205 pp; 92 pls; 25 pp adverts.

After lengthy sections on explosives, we find details of 'demolition of tunnels'; 'military mining tactics' (including 'mine fighting'); 'reconnaiss ance and control of mining operations'; 'methods of construction'; 'listening'; 'tunnelled dug-outs and sub-ways'; etc. In connection with the dug-outs and sub-ways section, plate 90 gives details of the 'caves and sub-ways' at Arras.

THE CASTLE OF PAPHOS ... CYPRUS ...

The Byzantine (6th - 9th Century) Castle of Paphos, Cyprus, has as much of interest below as above ground.

Set on a site approximately 150 metres square, it is protected by dry moats dug out of the bedrock and soil to a depth of about 15 metres. On the southern side there is an easily identifiable 'walk-in' passage, with traces of plaster-work on the walls; this, with some turning, goes about 30 metres, ending at the bottom of a round shaft descending from the stone floor. There are many other shafts, leading down into chambers mostly of bottle-kiln shape, with traces of plaster remaining. Some are accessible without ladder, others not; the deepest appears to be at least 60 feet.

On the north side of the moat is a partly overgrown entrance, leading to a stoop - and - walk passage, descending to a crawl, and ending with a wriggle. We made our way down this passage, on two occasions seeing glimmers of light breaking through from above; we marked these points with (a) a cairn of stones, and (b) a bit of twig pushed upwards (we only had a mini-torch and no other sensible equipment!)

Finally abandoning the ever-tihjter wriggle, we began to trace our route from above. Shape of flag-stones, plus our two 'markers' enabled this with accuracy. We found that the final tightness was occasioned by the passage splitting into a 'Y' shape, each arm leading to a beautifully preserved toilet, made of stone, of the 'plank - and - round - hole country seat' pattern. This drain system ran to within a few feet of the first mentioned, over 100 metres.

We can recommend this as a really nice exploration area for any S.B. members visiting Cyprus, and suggest that they persevere in the tight wriggle, having a colleague stationed above to take a snap of their emergence from the loo!

Valerie Bannister

DENE-HOLE BATS ...

After discussions with the Bat Group and the NCC, Thurrock District Council have imposed restrictions on the numbers and timing of pot-holing visits to the dene-holes in Hangman's Wood SSSI. Two species of bats were found hibernating in the dene-holes in February 1985 - confirming that the holes were still an important site for bats. Limiting the visits to serious exploration societies ... will help to preserve the archaeological interest ... as well as helping bats ...

John Dobson in Watch over Essex, Spring 1986, p. 25 (1986)

ARTIFICIAL BAT CAVE CONSTRUCTED IN KENT ...

The London Region group of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers have been building 'the first concrete artificial bat cave in the UK, in an old disused chalk pit in Kent ... due for completion 18 October ...'

Habitat 22(9), p. 5. 1986.

TOWN CAVE FOR SALE ...

Slipshoe House in Reigate, Surrey, was 'built in the 16th century and is part timbered and half tile-hung ... Grade II listed ... it has a cave beneath it, carved out of sandstone. Until recently it was occupied for 154 years by the Legg family ...' The house has 12 rooms, the original bread ovens, and outside stairs to the basement and cave ... it has great potential for residential subdivision, restaurant, antique showroom or offices, say the agents, Knight Frank and Rutley, who are asking offers around £ 175,000 ...'

The Times, 29 October 1986

STUDIES IN SPELEOLOGY ...

Studies in Speleology, as its title suggests, usually confines itself to strictly caving topics. Three papers in recent issues, though, may be of interest to SB members:

M. Gascoyne, Twenty years of uranium-series dating of cave calcites: a review of results, problems and new directions, Studies in Speleology 5, 15 - 30, 1984.

S.J. Pierpoint, Cave archaeology in Yorkshire, ibid 5, 7 - 14, 1984.

J. Wilmut, The conservation of caves in Great Britain. I. The growth of cave conservation, ibid 6, 5 - 10, 1985.

Caving is, after all, human use of underground space!

SOIL MOVEMENTS INDUCED BY TUNNELLING ...

Definitely for the technically and mathematically minded only ...

P.B. Attewell, J. Yeates & A.R. Selby, Soil movements induced by tunnelling and their effects on pipelines and structures, Blackie, xvi + 325pp ISBN 0 216 91876 6. This is an expanded version of the account by Attewell and Yeates in Chapter 6 of P.B. Attewell & R.K. Taylor (edrs), Ground movements and their effects on structures, Surrey University Press, 1984.

BAT CAVE OPENED ...

Britain's 'first artificial bat cave was officially opened in north-west London at the weekend to provide a winter home for the protected nocturnal animals. The London Wildlife Trust has built the hibernaculum ... in a field study centre at Birchen Grove, in the London Borough of Brent. The hibernaculum has been built into a mound of earth reinforced with oak beams and covered with wire mesh for the bats to hang from. The large insulated chamber can house several hundred of them. Similar caves are planned for Kent and Whipsnade Zoo ...'

The Times, 29 September 1986

AN UNDERGROUND HOUSE ON THE YORKSHIRE MOORS ...

'Underhill', an 'earth- sheltered house' of 21 rooms at Holme, west Yorkshire, is described in a recent article in Country Life. Constructed in the last 10 years, Underhill apparently has only one parallel in Britain, a near- completed earth-sheltered house at Westonbirt in the Cotswolds.

Country Life 180(4654), 1365 - 1366 (1986 October 30)

CIVIL ENGINEERING HERITAGE ... WALES & WESTERN ENGLAND ...

This, the second in the series (for details of the Northern England volume, see Newsletter 8, page 2), covers Wales, Cheshire, the West Midlands, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Avon and northern Wiltshire. Noteworthy underground sites featured include the Dinorwig Pumped Storage Scheme with its nine man-made caverns and numerous shafts and tunnels; the Blaenau Ffestiniog Railway tunnel; Llechwedd slate caverns; Chirk canal tunnel; Severn Tunnel; Box Tunnel; Bath's Roman water supply and drainage; Sapperton tunnels; Dudley and Netherton canal tunnels; Shugborough tunnel; Harecastle tunnels; etc.

W.J. Sivewright (edr), Civil Engineering Heritage: Wales and Western England, Thomas Telford, iv + 230pp ISBN 0 7277 0236 X, 1986. £ 6.95 pbk

RUSSIANS REVEAL THEIR NUCLEAR TEST SITE ...

Feature articles concerning a disused (pending the outcome of disarmament negotiations) nuclear test site in Kazakhstan appeared in the British national press in September, including a photograph of a horizontal tunnel entrance said to have been for use in connection with testing nuclear weapons.

The Guardian and The Times, 29 September 1986

HOLME TUNNEL ...

In February this year signs of structural failure were detected in Holme Tunnel (140 years old) between Todmorden and Burnley. BR imposed a 10 mph speed limit and kept the crack under observation. During the night it widened, and the following morning the tunnel and line were closed to traffic. Passengers have been sent by bus from Rosegrove, Burnley, to Hebden Bridge and vice versa. Repairs to the 265 yard tunnel were estimated to be likely to cost £ 400,000. Evidently the trouble was caused by movement associated with the Cliviger fault. The 'whole hillside was on the move again, tilting as it settled.' Halfway down the tunnel 'the up track ... has moved 1½ inches inwards and upwards ... BR's Civil Engineering Department in Birmingham is providing new steel rubbing to effect the repair ...'

Railway Magazine's October issue reported that the tunnel was scheduled to reopen for traffic on 29 September.

Lancashire Evening Telegraph, 21 May 1986, p. 8; Railway Magazine 132(1026), p. 645 (1986)

A HISTORY OF THE KENT COALFIELD ...

This rather slim (iv + 50pp) hardback volume is written, printed and published by John Hilton, and sold at £ 6.95. The chapter headings are The Discovery of Coal, The Dover Colliery, Arthur Burr and The Kent Coal Concessions, The East Kent Light Railway, Chislet Colliery, Tilmanstone and R. Tilden Smith, Betteshanger and Pearson & Dorman Long, Snowdon Colliery, and The National Coal Board takes over.

John Hilton, A history of the Kent coalfield, Printed & Published by the Author, iv + 50pp

GEOLOGY OF THE FOREST OF DEAN ...

The British Geological Survey is selling copies of Trotter's Geology of the Forest of Dean Coal and Iron-ore Field at a pound or two each. This title in the Survey's Memoirs series was first published in 1942, and reprinted in 1964, viii + 95pp hb. Enquiries to the Survey. The work contains useful data for the coal and iron mines.

HIGHGATE CEMETERY

A book entitled Highgate Cemetery, Victorian Valhalla, 'introduced by Felix Barker and photographed by John Gay, was published by John Murray in 1984 - 44pp + 64 photos + pp. 110 - 112 including a plan. £ 7.50 ISBN 0 7195 4137 9

THE IMPACT OF THE CHANNEL TUNNEL...

Two papers on The Impact of the Channel Tunnel appear in a recent issue of the Geographical Journal 152(3)(1986) ... Michael Chisholm's The impact of the Channel Tunnel on the Regions of Britain and Europe, pp. 314 - 34; and R.A. Gibb's The impact of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link on south east England, pp. 335 - 53 incl. discussion.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ROCK MECHANICS AND MINING SCIENCES ...

Far from light reading! The December 1985 issue (vol. 22, part 6) contains papers on Some Fuzzy Set applications in mining geomechanics, Viscoplastic creep of rocks around horizontal tunnels, and the like!

SWISS SHOW CAVES AND MINES ...

Nick Potter contributes the following 'definitive list' of 'show caves and mines' in Switzerland ...

Mines Mine de Sel de Bex; Bergwerk Davos Monstein mit Bergbaumuseum; Eisenbergwerk an Gonzen, Sargans

Caves St. Beatushöhlen; Grottes de Vallorbe; Grotte aux Fees; Lac souterrain St. Leonard; Grottes de Reclere; Grottes de Milandre; Kristallhöhle Kobelwald; Höllgrotten Bar; and Höllochhöhlen Muotatal

The Swiss military are said to have vast underground facilities - there are all sorts of mysterious doors in hillsides - but these are not open to the public!

DENMARK - SWEDEN TUNNEL?

Talks on a tunnel or bridge are reported The Times, 26 August 1986

BRMPTON ROAD TUBE STATION (DISUSED) ...

The London Fire & Civil Defence Authority is considering using the disused Piccadilly Line tube station 'Brompton Road' as a control centre. The station, closed in the 1930s, when the adjoining station of Knightsbridge had an escalator installed (thus bringing its entrance too near), was requisitioned by the War Office in 1940 and used as the London anti-aircraft nerve centre in conjunction with the London Region Civil Defence control centre in the basement of the Geological Museum, with a 'war room' now incorporated as an anthropology store in the Natural History Museum extension. As the station is under the centre of Brompton Road the only problem is the ownership, which now appears nebulous.

COTSWOLD PLACE LORE AND CUSTOMS ... CAVES ...

... Not more than a hundred yards away from 'The Round Tree' there is q kind of cave or hollow, with a great stone half-way across the opening; it is said to be the entrance to an underground passage leading to Minchinhampton. "In a time of battle, a queen took refuge there," said an old man in Hyde. There are terraces along the upper slope of the hill from Hyde to Bestbury, with France Lynch and Oakridge Lynch on the opposite side of Brimscombe Valley.

Folk Lore 23(3), p. 342 (1912)

THE GOODGE STREET DEEP SHELTER ...

A recent visitor to the Goodge Street Deep Shelter reports it has been converted into a 'security archive' repository, and that it 'has been transformed from its derelict state into a gleaming, clean, well - lit world of silently gliding trolleys. Unfortunately this has destroyed the remains of Eisenhower's D Day communications centre & troop hostel (complete with bar and 20 stools) but some graffiti from National Service men due to fly to Suez remain.

THE STOCKWELL DEEP SHELTER ...

... was recently used as a location for a feature film currently in production.

CAVES AND TUNNELS IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND ... PART 7 ...

The latest instalment of Harry Pearman's series is now published, describing a variety of sites ranging from a chalk mine in Bucks, another fragment of Reigate sand mine, a tunnel in Wimbledon, a shelter under Leicester Square, a drainage system at Chelmsford, chalk mines in Kent, a sand mine at Greenwich, to 'unsolved mysteries' at Bagshot Heath, Chatham, Windsor, and many other sites besides.

Harry Pearman, Caves and tunnels in south-east England, Part 7, Records Chelsea Speleological Society 15: (ii) + 42 + (i)pp £ 2

Orders to: Harry Pearman, 58 Prospect Place, Wapping Wall, LONDON E1 9TJ £ 2 cash with order.

CREATING A GEOLOGICAL DATABASE FOR PLANNING TUNNELS UNDER LONDON

This paper, by M.S. Rosenbaum and C.D. Warren, appeared in 1986 in the Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology 19, 413 - 24. 1986.

FLOODWATER IN THE FOREST OF DEAN COAL MINES ...

P.J. Aldous, P.L. Smart and J.A. Black have contributed a paper on Groundwater management problems in abandoned coal-mined aquifers: a case study of the Forest of Dean, England, in the Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology 19 (1986), 375 - 388.

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYING METHODS AND THE DETECTION OF CAVITIES ...

D.M. McCann, P.D. Jackson and M.G. Culshaw have contributed a paper on The use of geophysical surveying methods in the detection of natural cavities and mineshafts in the Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology 20(1), 59 - 73, 1987.

TUNNELLING INTO COLDITZ ...

Jim Rogers' book Tunnelling into Colditz; a mining engineer in captivity (Robert Hale, 1986) deals with his PoW experiences, and his and others' escape attempts including an unsuccessful tunnelling project at Laufen. £ 11.95 ISBN 0 7090 2804 0

ELMS COLLIERY, NAILSEA ...

An article in Popular Archaeology 7(7), 21 - 33 (1986) by David Lambert-Gorwyn, Nailsea - excavations at the Elms Colliery, describes surface excavations.

CHESHIRE SALT MINES ...

A recently published title in the 'new look' British Geological Survey Memoirs series contains some details of the Northwich - Winsford salt mines, and related topics such as subsidence caused by solution mining, etc.

J.R. Earp & B.T. Taylor, Geology of the country around Chester and Winsford, Memoir ... British Geological Survey, viii + 119pp ISBN 0 11 884392 3 (1986) £ 8.50

MINES NEAR HADDINGTON ...

And a further new BGS Memoir contains a chapter on the economic geology of East Lothian, including details for mines for coal, ironstone and hematite.

A.D. McAdam and W. Tulloch, Geology of the Haddington District, Memoir ... British Geological Survey, x + 99pp, 1985, ISBN 0 11 884452 0 £ 7

CLEVELAND IRONSTONE MINING ...

A booklet of this title has been written by John S. Owen, published by C. Books, PO Box 11, REDCAR, Cleveland TS10 1YS. The work was first published in 1979 as a part of a larger work on the Cleveland iron and steel industry, and is now reissued as a separate publication of (ii) + 46pp £ 2.25 ISBN 0 9506863 2 8

RATS RATTLED ...

Thames Water are paying out £ 6,500 for a rat baiting operation throughout Croydon's sewers.

Croydon Advertiser, 28 January 1987

AN OBSERVATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY DAMP IN A WELL IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT ...

... communicated in a letter from Mr. Benj. Cooke ... I send you an account of the melancholy Effects of a Damp or sulphureous Vapour, which happened in this Island, and of which I was an Eye-witness.

In the Month of June 1733 a Farmer, in Hopes of finding a perpetual Spring of good Water, sunk a Well, whose diameter was seven to the Depth of 45 Feet (through a Soil whose surface was a kind of brick Earth mixt with Sand, which in descending became almost wholly hard coarse yellow Sand); which Work employed the Labourers about 20 Days, without finding the least Appearance of Water.

At the distance of about 18 Feet from the top, a stratum of a mineral Mixture, about nine Inches thick, was dug through, without any Inconvenience; nor were the workmen in the least incommoded in carrying on the work, till about the 12th Day after, when towards the evening they were much annoy'd with a faint suffocating Heat, (which they compared to that coming from the Mouth of an Oven) and which, as they were drawn up, was most remarkably perceiv'd, when they came opposite to the mineral Stratum above mentioned, to come out in the Form of a warm sulphureous Halitus.

The next morning, a lusty young Man attempted to go down (hand over hand ...) by means of a single rope ... but as soon as he came opposite to the above-mention'd Stratum, he became incapable of sustaining his own weight, fell down to the Bottom, and died immediately.

Another young man, not suspecting the Cause ... and having seated himself astride a Cross-stick fixed to the Rope ... was hastily let down to his friend's Assistance; but when he came to the same distance from the Top, he was observed to give the Rope a very great Shock, and when he came to the Bottom, fell down, as the other had done before him, was seized with violent convulsions, which held him more than Quarter of an Hour, and then he expir'd.

A third person, in hopes of fetching up this second before he was quite dead, was tied fast into a large Basket, and let down with more caution; but when he came to the same Stratum, finding his breath going ... he cried out, and was drawn up again; but remain'd in the open Air, for the space of nearly half an Hour, pale as dead, panting and speechless.

The dead Bodies were ... drawn up by the help of a sort of Tongs ... (within three hours) ... but brought such a disagreeable stench in their Cloaths ... as made several hardy Men ... vomit. ...

Philosophical Transaction 40(450), 379 - 382 (? 1738)

'FOOLISH' TRIO RESCUED ...

Three men in a boat who became trapped in an underground canal tunnel when their dinghy sank have been called "very foolish" by police.

Their inflatable sank in the Standedge Canal tunnel, running from Marsden, near Huddersfield, to Diggle, Manchester, which is part of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal travelling beneath the Pennines ...

(The men) ... waited on a ledge inside the disused three-mile tunnel as John Wilson, aged 16 ... swam for help ...

A spokesman for West Yorkshire police said: "It must have been darned cold in there."

The Times, 5 January 1987